

VLR-4/17/73 NRHP-9/20/73

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
Virginia

COUNTY:  
Gloucester

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Walter Reed Birthplace

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Walter Reed Birthplace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North corner of intersection of Route 614 and Route 616.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Belroi

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First, Thomas N. Downing

COUNTY: Gloucester CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2705 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Gloucester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gloucester

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Gloucester

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Walter Reed Birthplace is a one-story three-bay frame gable roofed dwelling covered with white weatherboarding and is set on short brick piers. The brick chimney now standing on the southeast side was rebuilt with brick from the nearby John Eastwood place. The shed addition on the rear retains its original brick chimney. The door and window trim is plain, and the window has six-over-six sash. The roof was recovered with shingle in 1970.

The interior plan consists of a room in the main block with a corresponding upstairs room, and a room in the shed addition. An enclosed stair ascends in the south west corner of the principle room. The walls and ceilings of all the rooms are plastered. The door and window trim is plain; the chair-rail in the front room and the baseboards are beaded. The mantels are simple and consist of either a wide shelf or a series of shelves and unadorned pilasters. The greater part of the original wide flooring was retained during the restorations.

The restored house retains the basic form and much of the finish of the structure as it originally stood. Before restoration this house had a small gable roofed addition on the south east which was removed in 1927. The main exterior chimney had been removed; there was instead a small interior one serving a stove.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dr. Walter Reed, conqueror of yellow fever was born in a cottage in the tiny settlement of Belroi, Gloucester County, Virginia. His father, Rev. Lemuel Sutton Reed, was the minister of the Gloucester Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church from 1851-1852. The Methodist parsonage at Belroi was not completed until the end of Reed's ministry, and so the Reeds lived in the small house that was their son's birthplace.

The Walter Reed Birthplace was built in the first half of the nineteenth century. The tract of land identified with the birthplace traditionally was called "Stubbs Old Tavern" and was sold to William Roy Jones by Jefferson W. Stubbs in 1851. In 1878, Isabella Jones, widow of William Roy Jones, sold the tract to George D. Stubbs, who, in turn, sold the house to the Walter Reed Commission of the Medical Society of Virginia in 1926. The house was given to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1968 by the Society.

The Birthplace, as it existed in 1851 was described by Walter Reed's sister, Laura Reed Blincoc, as a "small affair with one large room and a smaller shed room back, one large room upstairs and a porch in front." Reed's brother, James, told his daughter that his family had been "cozy" and "comfortable" in the small cottage with its kitchen and servants' room in the back yard.

The Birthplace was restored in 1927 by the Medical Society. At that time, a room, which had been added on the southeast side, was removed. The front chimney was restored to its original exterior position by the use of brick from the John Eastwood place. Much of the weatherboarding, the shingle roof and the sash were replaced. The original floors were retained. After the APVA took over the house, it underwent further restoration in 1970 when a new roof was added and the plaster replaced in the upstairs room.

Walter Reed's family, after following the somewhat nomadic life of a Methodist minister for several years, settled in Charlottesville in 1866. In 1867 at the age of 16, Reed entered the University of Virginia. He was awarded a medical

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bruce, Philip Alexander, The Virginia Plutarch. Vol. 2, Chapel Hill: 1929.  
 Butts, D. Gregory Claiborne, From Saddle to City by Buggy, Boat and Railway. Richmond: 1922.  
Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XV, pp. 459-461.  
 Gray, Mary Wiatt, Gloucester County, Virginia. Richmond: 1936.  
 Hatch, Charles E., Jr., "A Brief Report on the Walter Reed Birthplace," July 22, 1953, U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 23' 18"	76° 35' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: January 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Gloucester	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8.  
degree in 1869, and was the youngest man ever to receive this degree from the University. Walter Reed also received a medical degree from Bellevue Hospital Medical College. In 1875 Reed became a surgeon with the army.

Although a research scholar of the highest order, Reed's greatest contribution to medicine came in 1900 when he was appointed to head a commission to investigate the cause and mode of the transmission of yellow fever. In Cuba, after running the risk of human experiment, Reed proved it was the mosquito that transmitted the disease. In 1902, after precautionary measures were taken against mosquitos, not a single case of yellow fever was discovered on the Island of Cuba. Dr. Walter Reed died from acute peritonitis on November 23, 1902, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington is named in his honor.

G. H.

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)  
Gloucester, Va. (1965)

Walter Reed Birthplace

Latitude

Longitude

37° 23' 18"

76° 35' 18"

